Borrowing by IRFC

2224. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Railway Finance Corporation proposes to raise funds from overseas markets for its mandated borrowings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present national and overseas outstanding borrowings of IRFC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd. (IRFC) has availed an export credit of US Dollars 20.4 Million (about Rs. 96 crore) in May' 2001 from Export Development Corporation (EDC), Canada to finance the import by Ministry of Railways, of 10 numbers 4000 Horse Power Diesel Electric Passenger Locomotives manufactured by General Motors Corporation, USA. There is no other proposal to raise funds from overseas market at present.

(c) The outstanding borrowings of IRFC as on 31.03.2001 are as under:—

Domestic borrowings	—	Rs. 12,730.36 crore
External borrowings	—	US Dollar 317.30 Million Japanese Yen 8.85 Billion Euro 19.53 Million

Arrerst of touts by GRP in Gujarat

2225. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Railway reservation racket busted," published in the Times of India, dated 6th May, 2001;

(b) if so, whether Government Railway Police (GRP) has arrested touts deployed by Railway authorised ticketing agents and

the Railway officials connected with this racket and seized tickets and cash, in that State;

(c) what steps Government are going to take to avoid recurrence of such rackets; and

(d) how much money the authorised agents are supposed to take as service charges for each ticket?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, no Railway officials was found involved nor was one arrested by the government Railway Police (GRP).

(c) The following steps have been taken:

1. CCTVs have been installed at important Reservation Centres to monitor the activity of the Booking Clerks and touts.

2. Messages are given in various media advising the public to guard against activities of touts.

2. Frequent raids are conducted against the touts by the Commercial, Vigilance, RPF and GRP officials.

4. Surprise checks are also conducted to ensure that the agents do not charge more than the permitted service charges.

5. Checks are conducted against suspected Reservation Staff and strict disciplinary action taken against those found conniving with the agents.

(d) The authorised Rail Travellers' Service Agents (RTSAs) are allowed to take Rs. 15/- for sleeper class and Rs. 25/-for upper classes as service charges.